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OO RUEH DU RUEHMR RUEHRN  
DE RUEHSB #0890 2751456  
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3514  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2334  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2452  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0966  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1730  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 2085  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2506  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4938  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1601  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000890

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B. WALCH  
DRL FOR N. WILETT  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS  
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: BITI FRUSTRATED OVER POWER-SHARING AGREEMENT

REF: A. HARARE 889  
[1](#)B. HARARE 840

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

[1](#)1. (C) A clearly frustrated Tendai Biti told polecon chief on September 30, that no formal negotiations were taking place to allocate ministries and conclude the agreement between ZANU-PF and the MDC. Biti suspected, however, that negotiations were taking place between Ian and Theresa Makone and other close Tsvangirai advisors, and ZANU-PF. According to Biti, Mugabe and Tsvangirai had tentatively agreed on a division of ministries with only home affairs (police), local government, finance, and foreign affairs yet to be decided.

[1](#)2. (C) Under the Mugabe-Tsvangirai agreement, according to Biti, ZANU-PF would head most important ministries including justice, information, defense, and land. Biti opined that Tsvangirai had caved to Mugabe--"Tsvangirai's idiocy is shocking"--and argued that only if the MDC gained the four remaining ministries would the division be fair. He was not optimistic this would happen; he believed that a compromise would result in each party taking two ministries.

[1](#)3. (C) Biti said the allocation of ministries should be open to formal negotiation and that the entire subject should be opened up. He had written to Mbeki suggesting this, and had told Mbeki the current arrangement negotiated by Mugabe and Tsvangirai could not be sold to the MDC national council. Nevertheless, he expected Tsvangirai to give in to Mugabe, sign an agreement, and present it to the MDC as a fait accompli. Biti said he felt betrayed by Tsvangirai's compromises with ZANU-PF.

[1](#)4. (C) Biti also expressed bitterness that several members of MDC-Mutambara had allied with independent MP Jonathan Moyo to challenge the election of Lovemore Moyo as speaker. As with Tsvangirai, Biti bemoaned that he had been betrayed by MDC-Mutambara leader Welshman Ncube.

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COMMENT

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15. (C) Our conversation with Biti took place before Tsvangirai's briefing on the stalemate in talks (Ref A), and we now know that Tsvangirai did not realize Biti's fears and concede the ministries of home affairs and finance to ZANU-PF. Nevertheless, under the tentative agreement between Mugabe and Tsvangirai, ZANU-PF will head critical ministries such as defense, land, justice, and information. Ideally, as Biti suggested, the entire division of ministries should be renegotiated. This is unlikely to happen, and it is therefore critical that at a minimum the MDC ultimately be given responsibility for home affairs and finance.

16. (C) Despite his disagreements with Tsvangirai, Biti said he will do nothing to weaken or splinter the MDC. He is still talking, however, about taking a sabbatical from the frustrations of Zimbabwean politics (Ref B). END COMMENT.  
MCGEE